

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A latching assembly for use to close a tailgate of a dump body having a frame, said latching assembly comprising :

    a latch catch having a contact surface, said latch catch being fixed to the tailgate with its contact surface extending at a given distance away from said tailgate;

    a hook pivotably mounted on a first pivot fixed to the frame of the dump body, said hook having a projection positioned and shaped to abut against the contact surface of the latch catch;

    an actuator fixed to the frame of the dump body; and

    means for transmitting movement from the actuator to the hook,

    wherein in use, said actuator transmits a rotational movement to the hook which is then turned between a first position in which the hook projection abuts against the contact surface of the latch catch, thereby preventing opening of the tailgate, and a second position wherein the hook projection is freed from any displacement trajectory from the latch catch, thereby enabling the tailgate to open, and

    wherein the latch catch comprises adjustment means for adjusting the distance between the contact surface and the tailgate.

2. (Currently amended) The latching assembly according to claim 1, wherein said adjustment means comprises at least one nut mounted on a gudgeon.

3. (Original) The latching assembly according to claim 2, wherein the latch catch is fixed on a first support fixed to the tailgate.

4. (Original) The latching assembly according to claim 3, characterized in that the first support is devised of such a manner as to space away and raise the contact surface of the latch catch relative to an adjacent surface of the tailgate.

5. (Original) The latching assembly according to claim 4, wherein the hook, the actuator and the means for transmitting movement are fixed to a second support fixed to the frame of the dump body.
6. (Original) The latching assembly according to claim 5, wherein the second support is fixed in a detachable manner to the frame of the dump body.
7. (Original) The latching assembly according to claim 3, wherein the hook, the actuator and the means for transmitting movement are fixed to a second support fixed to the frame of the dump body.
8. (Original) The latching assembly according to claim 7, wherein the second support is fixed in a detachable manner to the frame of the dump body.
9. (Original) The latching assembly according to claim 1, wherein said means for transmitting movement comprises :
  - a first link connected to the actuator, said first link being pivotably mounted on a second pivot fixed on the frame of the dump body, and
  - a second link pivotably connected to the first link and to the hook.
10. (Original) The latching assembly according to claim 2, wherein said means for transmitting movement comprises :

a first link connected to the actuator, said first link being pivotably mounted on a second pivot fixed on the frame of the dump body, and  
a second link pivotably connected to the first link and to the hook.

11. (Original) The latching assembly according to claim 3, wherein said means for transmitting movement comprises :

a first link connected to the actuator, said first link being pivotably mounted on a second pivot fixed on the frame of the dump body, and  
a second link pivotably connected to the first link and to the hook.

12. (Original) The latching assembly according to claim 5, wherein said means for transmitting movement comprises :

a first link connected to the actuator, said first link being pivotably mounted on a second pivot fixed on the frame of the dump body, and  
a second link pivotably connected to the first link and to the hook.

13. (Original) The latching assembly according to claim 1, wherein the actuator is pneumatic.

14. (Original) The latching assembly according to claim 2, wherein the actuator is pneumatic.

15. (Original) The latching assembly according to claim 9, wherein the actuator is pneumatic.

16. (Original) The latching assembly according to claim 11, wherein the actuator is pneumatic.

17. (Original) The latching assembly according to claim 12, wherein the actuator is pneumatic.